

Town of La Pointe
Special Town Board Meeting
2016 Budget Workshop
Thursday, October 22nd, 2015
5:00 pm at the Town Hall
Approved Minutes

Present: Jim Patterson, Mike Anderson, John Carlson, Michael Childers, Mike Starck

Staff present: Lisa Potswald, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne, Connie Ross, Ham Ross

Public Present: Glenn Carlson, Jan Smith, Seri Demorest, Barb Christensen (Clinic President)

1. Call to order: at 5:00pm

2. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:

A. Library: Library Director Connie Ross was present to go over the Library Board's proposed budget. C. Ross read a letter stating some background of the Library as well as that the Town Board approved a 46% wage increase in 2013 for the Library Director and Lead Librarian to occur over four years. 2016 is the fourth and final year of the increase.

Chair J. Patterson mentioned that his daughter is an employee at the library and may need to abstain from voting on the library budget when the time comes.

Interim Town Administrator Lisa Potswald reminded that Board that Wisconsin Statutes state that the Town Board is only responsible for approving the total budget amount, Library Board is responsible for how the total is divided into individual line items. The Town Board cannot dictate where the library board spends their budgeted money.

C. Ross presented the budget as similar to previous years except for the increase in salaries.

B. Cemetery: Budget presented by Sexton Ham Ross. There had been an increase in Town Crew labor expenditure from Foreman Kristian Larsen, but H. Ross discuss with him to drop the amount from \$1900 to \$850. The total expenditures for the cemetery are presented as \$4350 and not \$5023 as written. K. Erickson will continue to do the grounds as she knows the ins and outs and does a great job. H. Ross discussed increasing the fee schedule: Burials up to \$1000 from \$800, Cremations up to \$400 from \$250, and gravesites up to \$500 from \$400.

C. Clinic/ Health Center: Budget presented by Clinic Board President Barb Christensen. The clinic is asking for the same amount as previous years, \$24,000, for operating costs and insurances. Discussion on the future of the clinic, and the possibility of connecting with Red Cliff Community Health Center as a 'satellite' location, a total take over, or other options. A proposal has been sent to Red Cliff, more information forthcoming. Some increases in the Clinic's own budget (not the Town's share) include an increase in building maintenance costs for the possibility of remodeling the garage space to accommodate small rooms for mental health or physical therapy meetings. There is also an increase in their budget for contract labor as they see contracting nurse practitioners and other therapists coming over to provide more options to residents, and assist in a possible transition to Red Cliff, or at least in preparation for the possibility of Dr. Fredrickson's retirement.

D. Alternative Energy Committee: The committee has not asked for any funds in 2016, but would like to retain their \$2000 to use for travel expenses to pursue funding and legislative options.

3. Ashland County Zoning and Law Enforcement agreements and reimbursements:

Discussion on creating a better relationship with the County because over the past couple of years things have seemed to deteriorate. The Town Board would like to set up a meeting with the County Administrator as well as County Board Chair, and the Finance Committee to go over some budget items. The main areas of focus are Law Enforcement and Zoning, and the Town is providing services and not getting the contracted/ agreed upon reimbursements. The County has been giving the Police Department the same \$124,500 for the last few years, though the overall budgets have gone up, meaning they are not providing half of the budget as they agreed to. In zoning, the County will be giving the town \$6500 in 2016 as opposed to \$5000 the last couple of years, but the overall Zoning budget is close to \$90,000 and over half of the permits issued are county permits. Next steps include setting up a meeting in the near future with the Town Board and the County representatives to try to get back on track.

4. Ashland County reimbursements in lieu of Property Tax Exemption: Not discussed.

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, M. Childers/ M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
Adjourned at 6:20pm.

Submitted by Clerk Micaela Montagne

Approved as submitted October 27, 2015. M. Montagne